

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE):

Programs to Strengthen Marriages and Families

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND DISINCENTIVES TO MARRIAGE

PURPOSE:

This project involves research on incentives and disincentives to marriage, such as those contained in tax provisions, including the Earned Income Tax Credit as well as means-tested benefit programs, such as welfare or food stamps, as they relate to marriage for low-income families. This project features a database that catalogs relevant federal and state tax policy, and social service program rules that create marriage benefits and penalties.

Another key feature of this project is user-friendly software which utilizes database information to calculate financial disincentives for marriage in various jurisdictions, under key scenarios such as earnings, family size, and family structure. Finally, this project features standardized tables that illustrate state descriptions and state-by-state comparisons of financial incentives and disincentives related to marriage.

CONTRACTOR: The Urban Institute

PROJECT PERIOD: September 2003 to September 2005

FUNDING: \$464,000